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What it is & why

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National security league

THE NATIONAL SECURITY LEAGUE, INC.

*What It Is and Why
What It Has Done And Is Doing*

A NATIONAL DEFENSE CATECHISM
FOR THE BUSY MAN OR WOMAN



Issued By

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INTRODUCTION

This little pamphlet is intended as a quick means of information for those who know nothing whatever about the National Security League.

It aims to answer three fundamental questions:

1. *What is the National Security League?*
2. *What are the conditions which make such an organization necessary?*
3. *How does it hope to accomplish its purpose?*

Every patriotic man and woman in the United States should be interested in the question of national defense, and undoubtedly every patriotic man and woman would be interested if he or she realized our present condition of weakness and the necessity of doing something *at once* to guard against possible disaster and to maintain our place of influence for good among the nations of the world.

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A NATIONAL DEFENSE CATECHISM

LESSON FIRST

On What the National Security League Is

Q. What is the National Security League?

A. The National Security League is an organization of men and women who are concerned for their country's welfare and wish to do something to help the cause of preparedness for national defense.

Q. Is it a political or partisan organization?

A. No. It is non-political and non-partisan. It has no politics but Preparedness, no country save America.

Q. What is the purpose of the National Security League?

A. It has a two-fold purpose: First, to arouse the American people to a realizing sense of our naval and military weakness

and of the national menace that such weakness involves. Second, to secure, through the power of public sentiment, such measures of preparation as will insure the nation against attempted invasion and enable it to enforce its rights and make its flag respected in every quarter of the civilized world.

Q. Is the National Security League opposed to war?

A. Yes, except as a last resort in defense of the nation's rights and the rights of its citizens. Its motto is: "Preparedness AGAINST war, not FOR war," or "Defense, not Offense."

Q. Does it believe that preparedness is essential to peace without loss of honor and prestige?

A. Yes. It believes with George Washington that "If we desire to secure peace, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war." In other words, it believes that it is impossible for a nation to defend itself against aggression, or to uphold its rights, if the world knows that it is at all times too weak to back its words with force.

Q. What is the essential qualification for membership in the National Security League?

A. American citizenship and a belief in

the principles of the League which are:
Universal Obligatory Military Training,
An Adequate Army,
Navy Second in Strength,
Governmental Efficiency,
Industrial Preparedness,
Country Above Party,
Patriotism Through Education,
Unified National Spirit.

LESSON SECOND

On Why the National Security League Was Formed

Q. *Why was the National Security League deemed necessary by those responsible for its organization?*

A. Because it seemed impossible, except by an organized campaign of education on a huge scale, to make the people realize our deplorable state of unpreparedness and the dangers that surround us.

Q. *Is that still true?*

A. It is. Unfortunately a large percentage of our people, including many of our lawmakers, are not yet fully alive to the danger to which the nation is exposed on account of its weakness. To bring the facts home to them and to arouse them to concerted action is the duty of all whose

eyes have been opened, and to this end nation-wide organization is absolutely essential.

LESSON THIRD

On Our Need of Preparedness

Q. *Is the United States in danger from war?*

A. Yes. We have been obliged to break off diplomatic relations with the German Government on account of its submarine warfare and other activities, and it has been found necessary to arm American merchant ships to protect them from attack on the high seas.

Q. *Is there any other reason for thinking that this nation may be compelled to go to war?*

A. We already have disputes with more than one of the belligerent nations of Europe; the Monroe doctrine must be maintained and we may be compelled to defend our position as to Asiatic exclusion. Unfortunately it does not take two to make a war and the time may come, as the President suggests, when this country will have no choice but to wage a war of self-defense if it wishes to retain its standing before the world as the bulwark of liberty

and the home of a free, self-respecting and universally respected people.

Q. Does that mean that peace is not always desirable?

A. Peace is always desirable and war always deplorable. But peace is not always possible except through the sacrifice of more precious things. Peace with dishonor, for instance, would be contrary to the spirit of Americanism and fatal to our permanence as an independent people. In the words of the President: "There is a price which is too great to pay for peace. One can not pay the price of self-respect. One can not pay the price of duties abdicated, of glorious opportunities neglected, of character, national character, left without vindication and exemplification in action."

LESSON FOURTH

On the State of Our Defenses

Q. If war should come to this country through no fault of ours, as it may any moment how are we prepared to meet it?

A. Our condition of unreadiness is such that it is appalling to think what might happen. All competent authorities agree that in our present defenseless state we

should be an easy prey for any first class power.

Q. *What has the President of the United States said on this point?*

A. The President has said: "A navy impregnable to the navies of the world is the first need of this country. If the flame from a world on fire creeps in on us it may creep from both coasts. And here we are without enough ships to patrol them."

Q. *How does our fleet rank with the fleets of other nations?*

A. A few years ago our navy was rated second only to that of Great Britain. To-day our naval authorities and President Wilson admit that it is *FOURTH*—and going down.

Q. *Is our navy "as good as any" in point of quality?*

A. No. Our navy is lacking in armament and speed.

Q. *What type of war vessel has played the most important part in the European war?*

A. The battle cruiser.

Q. *How many battle cruisers have we?*

A. We have none.

Q. *How about scout cruisers?*

A. The only ones we have are antiquated and practically useless.

Q. How about officers and men?

A. The Secretary of the Navy states that to put all existing ships into commission "the navy would be short approximately 938 officers, 8,049 regulars and 23,330 reserves after using 9,000 militia and 463 fleet reserves. The shortage will increase for each new ship in commission in 1917 and 1918, and the three-year program alone will require 29,127."

Q. Have we an army sufficient for our needs?

A. No. The authorities agree that it is utterly inadequate. President Wilson said: "I haven't had enough men to prevent Mexican bandits from raiding across the border of the United States. It has been a mortifying situation, indeed."

Q. How does our army compare with the armies of other nations?

A. It ranks last. Ten foreign powers have armies of from 1,000,000 to 5,500,000 each. We have about 90,000 men. There are in this country only 36,500 mobile troops. The General Staff of the army says Great Britain could deliver on our coasts 170,000 troops in fifteen days. Germany could deliver 827,000 in forty-six days. Japan could deliver 238,000 in sixty-three days. Two of those nations are our

masters in the Atlantic. The other is at present our master in the Pacific.

- Q: *Should the United States have a master in either the Atlantic or the Pacific?*

A. Not unless it is willing to become a dependent nation.

Q. *Is our army well equipped?*

A. Its equipment is inferior to that of any foreign army. One Russian army in the Japanese war used 50 per cent. more field guns in one battle than we own or are building today.

Q. *How are we off for aircraft?*

A. We build thousands of aircraft for foreign armies and navies, but have only a few imperfect ones for ourselves. Servia had more than we at the outbreak of the war.

Q. *Are aircraft important?*

A. They are the eyes of the modern army and navy. A navy or an army without aircraft today is blind and fatally handicapped.

Q. *Is it a fact, then, that we not only lack ships and men, but lack proper equipment for those we have?*

A. Unfortunately, that is true.

LESSON FIFTH

On What the National Security League Hopes to Accomplish

Q. Who must bear the blame for our defenseless condition?

A. The whole people. For years we have been living in a fool's paradise, serene in the mistaken belief that we were adequately protected from foreign invasion by two mighty oceans and that we possessed a navy strong enough to enforce our rights anywhere.

Q. How do we know that this was a mistaken belief?

A. The European war has proved it conclusively, but the facts have long been known to foreign rulers and to our naval and military authorities.

Q. Was the truth never made public by any responsible authority until after the European war?

A. Yes. For years the General Staff of the Army and the General Board of the Navy have been reporting the facts to Congress and demanding appropriations commensurate with our needs.

Q. Has Congress refused to heed the warnings of the experts?

A. Yes.

Q. Why?

A. Because the warnings and demands of the experts were not backed by public opinion.

Q. That is to say, public opinion was not aroused and crystallized in support of preparedness for national defense?

A. Exactly.

Q. Have any steps been taken to remedy that situation?

A. Yes. It was to crystallize public opinion and bring it to bear upon Congress that the National Security League was formed.

Q. What has it done so far?

A. First: The League has built up an organization of one hundred thousand members in every state in the Union, with nearly two hundred organized branches in cities and towns, each branch being a center for the dissemination of preparedness sentiment.

Second: It has secured the cooperation of seventeen governors of States in appointing State Committees on National Defense to cooperate with the League. It has also secured the appointment by Mayors of seventy-nine Citizen Committees on National Defense to cooperate with the League.

Third: It has distributed over six million pieces of preparedness literature.

Fourth: It has the record at Headquarters of over twenty thousand letters written by members of the League to Senators and Representatives in Washington urging affirmative votes for preparedness. This activity was especially effective in regard to the Navy Bill.

Fifth: It has held a Peace and Preparation Convention in New York; a Preparedness Convention in Chicago; a National Security Congress in Washington; a Conference of Mayors and Mayors' Representatives in St. Louis; a National Defense Conference in Charleston, S. C.; a National Defense Conference in Knoxville, Tenn.; Mass meetings in New York and other cities and has contributed to the success of similar conferences and preparedness parades in sixteen cities. Attention is particularly called to the recent Congress of Constructive Patriotism held in Washington which was attended by representatives from 17 Governors; 65 Mayors; 67 Colleges; 70 Commercial Organizations; 163 Patriotic and Learned Societies; 40 Branches and various other organizations, the delegates numbering nearly two thousand. A definite statement of principles was adopted by this Congress.

Sixth: It has supplied speakers on preparedness for several hundred public meetings, in all parts of the country.

Many more instances of minor accomplishments could be added but the work of the League is summed up in the statement that it has done more than any other organization in awakening the American people to a realization of the need for national defense and we know that the public sentiment which we created through persistent and industrious work had much to do with the change of attitude on the part of the American people on this question.

Q. What are its present activities?

A. First: In its declaration of principles the National Security League has placed universal military training and service as the first of the cardinal requirements for preparedness.

In order to give practical force and effect to this declaration, it has prepared a petition to the President and Congress of the United States urging the immediate adoption of a system of universal military training and service providing for the training of young men prior to their twentieth year with subsequent liability to service. This petition is being circulated throughout the United States and thousands of signatures are being received daily.

It is urging branches and members to send letters to their Senators and Representatives to vote for a universal military training law.

Second: It has secured the free insertion of a referendum ballot on the subject of universal military training in sixteen daily newspapers.

Third: It has distributed 100,000 copies of a catechism on universal military training and several hundred thousand pieces of other literature on the same subject.

Fourth: It has supplied schools in nearly every State in the Union with affirmative material for debates on universal military training.

Fifth: A bill prepared by the National Security League providing for physical and military training in the schools has been introduced in five state legislatures now in session. It will also ask these legislatures to adopt a memorial to Congress urging the enactment of a law providing for a system of universal military training under federal control.

Sixth: Representatives of patriotic and defense societies at the recent Congress of Constructive Patriotism, have through the initiative of the League organized to secure through unification of effort the enact-

ment of a federal law for universal military training and service.

It also hopes to inaugurate a university extension or lecture system on patriotic topics which will spread the gospel of civic duty and responsibility into every corner of the land. Experience has shown that no greater or more patriotic work can be done than to educate the American people along the lines of a unified and efficient national spirit. The League is thoroughly equipped to do this work through its one hundred thousand members and two hundred and eighty branches and committees located in all parts of the country.

In conclusion the accounts of the National Security League are audited every three months by the firm of Marwick, Mitchell, Peat & Co., which in a recent report characterized the management of the national headquarters as "most economical and efficient."

Q. What does it cost to join this organization and aid in its work?

A. Annual membership costs \$1.00; contributing membership (yearly), \$5.00; life membership, \$25.00; founder \$100.00; donor over \$100.00.

Q. How many members are wanted?

A. One Million Members.

Q. How does it expect to make this great membership effective in its campaign for adequate preparedness?

A. Backed by such a tremendous body of public opinion, the National Security League expects that Congress will heed its demand for legislation.

Q. To what end?

A. To the end that the United States of America may conserve and defend its rights and ideals. To the end that as a nation, in the words of a great American, "we may secure peace for ourselves and for others; not the peace of cowardice nor the peace of selfishness, but the peace of righteousness and of justice, the peace of brave men pledged to the service of this mighty democratic republic, and through that service pledged also to the service of the world at large."

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The National Security League is supported by contributions of the public. It is not endowed and finds that the work of raising sufficient funds for the distribution of its literature is a matter of most serious difficulty.

All those who believe in forwarding its work are earnestly urged to support it and aid in securing new members.

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